

Effects of the *Dred Scott* Decision

Analyzing Information Tell the class that Dred Scott's master took him to live in the free state of Illinois and the free territory of Wisconsin. When his master took him to St. Louis, Missouri, Scott sued for his freedom in federal court, saying that by being taken to free territories, he was no longer a slave. Not only did the Supreme Court refuse to hear his case, stating that only citizens could sue in federal court, but it used its decision in the case to rule on a number of other slavery-related issues. Guide the class in a point-by-point discussion of this graphic organizer. Then have each student use the information given here to write a short essay about how the *Dred Scott* decision would have helped the Republican party.

English-Language Learners Make sure that students understand what the *Dred Scott* decision was. Then go over the graphic organizer with students. Guide students in discussing the *Dred Scott* decision from the point of view of the South. Ask them why southerners would have been pleased with the decision.

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- Increased northern opposition to slavery
- Deprived free African Americans of citizenship if they were descendants of slaves
- Increased tensions between North and South
- Widened divisions in the Democratic Party

Dred Scott "had no rights which the white man was bound to respect," ruled Chief Justice Roger Taney.